



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Special Committee on Agriculture

Subject : Programme for the Portuguese Presidency
 - Agriculture

Delegations will find attached the Programme drawn up by the Portuguese Presidency concerning the Agriculture sector, to be presented to delegations at the Special Committee on Agriculture meeting on 9 July 2007.



PORTUGAL 2007

PROGRAMME FOR THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY

— AGRICULTURE —



**Ministério da
Agricultura,
Desenvolvimento
Rural e Pescas**

- 1. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was set up in the 1950s in the post-war period, when a guaranteed food supply for the population was one of the basic concerns. The aim of the CAP was to increase productivity in the food sector and provide farmers with a reasonable standard of living and consumers with food at fair prices. Over time, though these goals have been met, certain maladjustment arose in a Europe and world in constant evolution.**

- 2. The successive CAP reforms meanwhile performed have gradually adapted it to the challenges of a larger Europe with greater diversity in an increasingly global society with rising concerns and demands in terms of food safety, environmental and animal protection and the rebalancing of territories and the rural world.**

- 3. The CAP reform that began in 2003 has rendered it simpler and more transparent and encourages a search for greater sustainability and clear market reorientation, focusing on rural development policy. It also gives EU citizens a better idea of the services that farmers provide society by guaranteeing safe, high-quality food products, maintaining rural areas and preserving the environment and the landscape.**

This European agricultural model must, however, be allowed to follow its course of continuous assessment and seek appropriate responses to the challenges of a constantly evolving global society with new players, new technologies and more demanding consumers, while also guaranteeing competitive, socially and environmentally sustainable, territorially balanced activity.

Common Agricultural Policy: Main Points

The Portuguese Presidency will continue the process to complete the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy initiated in 2003 for the development of an economically and socially sustainable, environmentally friendly, market-oriented agriculture throughout the European territory.

Current CAP reforms

The Portuguese Presidency will work hard to achieve consensus on a reform of the common market organisation for wine that will ensure that the sector is sustainable and competitive, through greater market orientation of production, focus on and defence of the European tradition of quality production and the socio-cultural and environmental importance of wine in the EU's winegrowing regions. The adoption of this new regulation will complete the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy that began in 2003.

The Portuguese Presidency plans to conduct and complete negotiations on proposed adjustments to market organisations in the sugar and milk and dairy product sectors. The discussion on reform of the cotton support regime will be initiated.

Simplification of the CAP

Following the conclusions on cross-compliance adopted by the June Council, the Portuguese Presidency will work towards adopting its simplification proposals.

The revision of the regulation on the promotion of agricultural products, the regulations on the CAP funding and the inclusion into the Single CMO of the adjustments on sugar and milk and dairy market meanwhile adopted, will be important steps towards greater simplification and can be expected to be adopted during the Portuguese Presidency.

Health check

The implementation of the CAP reform will be assessed in a Commission document to be presented before the end of the Portuguese Presidency.

This is an opportunity not only to make a thorough assessment of its implementation but also to consider its future after 2013.

We shall be facing profound differences regarding what is expected from a Community policy for the rural world and we shall encourage a wide, constructive debate in order to establish appropriate and positive guidelines for the future of the sector.

FAO

The conclusion of the reform process of this institution should come about in November, during the Portuguese Presidency

Forestry Policy: Main Points

Forestry and its downstream industry contribute to the economic development of vast rural regions of the EU and of the rest of the world. The sustainable use of forestry resources, more competitive forest products and the conservation of biological diversity are goals to be pursued. The Portuguese Presidency should therefore:

- Look for implementation of the EU action Plan on FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) which relates illegal harvesting to good governance in third countries and the possibility of access to the internal EU market
- Follow the implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan, specially in relation to public procurement policies of forest products and valuation of services provided by forests

- Coordinate EU actions and contributions to international institutions and improve synergies among forest related processes:
 - general evaluation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and definition of future steps, at political level (Council Conclusions)
 - preparation of work under the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO);
 - Coordinate EU positions in relation to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat desertification and Drought (UNCCD)
 - relationship Forests, Climate Change and Biodiversity;
 - Mandate to the European Commission to subscribe, on behalf of the Community, of the documents to be approved at the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, warsaw, 5th to 7th November

Food Safety and Plant and Animal Protection: Main Points

In the area of plant protection, the Presidency we will work hard on the discussion of the **Framework Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides** and the **Regulation** on the market placement of **Phytopharmaceutical Products** contributing to the political agreement with the Council and the European Parliament.

The discussion of the **Animal Health Strategy**, with emphasis on priority intervention in the fight against zoonoses and their repercussions on the Veterinary Fund, is aimed at a modern European framework for animal health policy – prevention, vigilance and the fight against diseases in animals and the identification of priorities in the fields of finance, innovation and research. The Commission will issue a communication and its discussion will evaluate the need to set up a legislative framework and applicable co-finance schemes for a better prevention policy in the EU.

There will also be extensive discussion on the need to update the regulations in the use of certain **hormonal substances** in pets and by food producers.

The Presidency will work on legislation on the **circulation and labelling of animal food**, with particular attention to increasing safety, competitiveness and innovation in the sector. Where the regulation of **foodstuffs** is concerned, we will finalise the discussion of the proposal in food flavourings under the **FIAP - Food Improvement Agents Package**, which includes draft common authorisation procedures and regulations on additives and enzymes.

The Presidency will also work on the proposal to be submitted by the Commission on **novel foods**, aiming to simplify approval procedures, while continuing to ensure food safety.

Finally, at bilateral level, the Presidency will follow up on the ongoing work in **EU bilateral SPS Agreements** (Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) and negotiations with third countries and at multilateral level of the *Codex Alimentarius* and **OIE - International Epizootics Organisation** and the IPPC – International Plant Protection Convention.

MAIN EVENTS IN PORTUGAL

- **Informal Council of Ministers of Agriculture** - Porto, 16-18 September.
Subject: The role and contribution of the agri-food chains to the sustainable development of rural areas
- **Special Committee on Agriculture**, informal meeting - Porto, 16-18 September
- **Meeting of Heads of Veterinary Services** - Lisbon, 8-10 October